

Greek Drama: Antigone

Objectives: The student will be able to...

- Identify the role of drama in Classical Greek society.
- Describe a Greek theatre.
- Distinguish between comedy and tragedy.
- Examine the dilemma in which Antigone found herself.
- Distinguish between laws of the state and laws of nature or conscience.
- Analyze the play *Antigone* as a historical document.

Activities:

- Read Document A: "Greek Drama: Antigone; Background Information."
- Discussion questions
- View the play (video format or online version)
- Discussion questions
- Write an essay in class on Friday(50 pt. value)

Extended Activities:

- Choose a character and create a mask to reflect the value(s) as suggested within the play. (25 pts)
- Write (and perform) a short version of a comedy or tragedy (base your work on topics of the day) (50 pts.)

Lesson Organization:

- Read Document A and meet in assigned groups to discuss and take notes on reading. (25 min.)
 - Questions
 - What political and architectural events were going on simultaneously with the great age of Greek theater?
 - Why do you think poor people were encouraged to attend the Dionysian Festival?
 - How did the play competition function? Who paid for the plays, who directed them? What does this tell you about citizenship?
 - What was the purpose and function of masks?
- Large group discussion
- Begin viewing video
 - Questions to complete from video due
 - What tragic dilemma did Antigone face?
 - Which laws were more important to Antigone, the laws of the state or the laws of her own conscience and the gods?
 - Was King Creon justified in his decision not to bury Antigone's brother?

- What makes Antigone a heroic character? How would you define heroic?
- Are there other examples from history which involve the same or similar issues as those in Antigone?
- Do you think that there are situations under which public rules can be violated? Explain. **(Post this response on wiki for all to see)**